



# インベスターZ

I N V E S T O R Z

4

三田紀房







OH?  
HOW?

OUR  
SITUATION  
IS QUITE  
DIFFERENT  
FROM  
WHAT YOU  
SENPAIS  
TOLD ME.

I  
RETHOUGHT  
EVERYTHING  
ABOUT OUR  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB.



...BUT  
WE'RE ONLY  
WORKING WITH  
HALF OF THAT:  
150 BILLION  
FOR OUR  
INVESTMENTS.

YOU  
SAY OUR  
CAPITAL  
IS 300  
BILLION.



THEY'VE  
INCREASED IN  
VALUE MANY  
TIMES OVER  
SINCE THE  
TIME OF  
PURCHASE,  
AND THE  
ANNUAL  
DIVIDENDS ARE  
CONSIDERABLY  
HIGH.

THE  
OTHER HALF  
IS INVESTED  
LONG-TERM,  
IN STOCKS  
OF MAJOR  
JAPANESE  
INDUSTRIES THAT  
WERE BOUGHT  
AT OPPORTUNE  
ECONOMIC  
TIMES.





WHAT?



BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU'RE ALL JUST SITTING ON YOUR LAURELS?

IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN IF WE SIT ON THOSE STOCKS THAT OUR PREDECESSORS BOUGHT, MONEY WILL CONTINUE ROLLING IN.



...AND A BUNCH OF JUNK STUFFED IN THE SAFE.

WE BRAG THAT THE INVESTMENT CLUB ACTIVELY INVESTS, BUT HALF OF OUR CAPITAL IS SUNK INTO HIGHLY STABLE STOCKS..



ALL THIS IS JUNK!



HOW DARE YOU.

JUNK?!



ART ONLY  
HAS MEANING  
WHEN IT IS  
APPRECIATED BY  
THE PUBLIC.

PAINTINGS  
AND  
SCULPTURES  
ONLY HAVE  
VALUE WHEN  
THEY ARE  
SEEN BY  
PEOPLE.



ALL OF IT  
TURNS TO  
JUNK!

IF PEOPLE  
HOARD THEM IN  
A COLLECTION  
THAT NO ONE  
SEES, THE ART  
BECOMES  
VALUELESS!



SO WE  
SELL  
THEM...  
AND THEN  
WHAT?

IS THAT  
WHY YOU  
SUGGEST  
WE SELL  
THEM?

YES.





YOU TAKE IT TO AUCTIONS, HAVE BUYERS COMPETE, AND FINALLY IT GETS SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. EVEN THEN, WE'RE NOT GUARANTEED TO GET THE PRICE WE'D HOPED FOR.

GOLD IS EASY TO TURN TO CASH, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ART, IT'S VERY DIFFICULT.



ALL WE CAN DO IN THE INVESTMENT CLUB IS KEEP THEM IN STORAGE.

NOT ONLY THAT, WE CAN'T LIQUIDATE THESE MATERIAL ASSETS WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE FUJITA FAMILY.



TIME...

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT FOR THEM TO GROW.

PLUS, STARTUP INDUSTRIES DON'T SUIT OUR INVESTMENT CLUB.

SO WE  
HAVE TO FOCUS  
ON INDUSTRIES  
WE CAN EASILY  
ANALYZE  
VENTURE  
BUSINESSES  
DON'T GIVE  
US ENOUGH  
INFORMATION, SO  
THEY'RE OUT OF  
OUR REACH.



WE'RE  
STUDENTS.  
MOST OF OUR  
TIME AT SCHOOL  
IS SPENT IN  
CLASSROOMS.  
WE HAVE TO  
PREPARE OUR  
INVESTMENTS IN  
THE SHORT TIME  
WE'RE GIVEN  
AFTER  
SCHOOL.

BUT IT'S  
A PHYSICAL  
IMPOSSIBILITY.



I  
UNDERSTAND  
YOUR  
REASONING.



ALL WE NEED  
TO DO IS  
FOLLOW OUR  
PREDECESSORS  
WITHOUT  
ASKING  
QUESTIONS,  
AND HIT THE  
TARGETED  
ANNUAL  
RETURN



LISTEN, ZAIKEN.  
WE'RE EXPECTED  
TO MANAGE OUR  
FUNDS AND EARN  
WITH STOCKS TO  
MAINTAIN THE  
SCHOOL'S  
EXPENDITURES











IT'S LIKE  
JAPAN IS  
TRYING TO  
CHALLENGE  
B29S WITH  
BAMBOO  
SPEARS!

THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN THE  
COUNTRIES IS  
THE SAME AS THE  
DIFFERENCE IN  
MILITARY POWER  
BETWEEN THE  
NATIONS IN THE  
PACIFIC WAR!

IN THE STATE  
OF CALIFORNIA,  
THEY RECEIVE  
300 BILLION  
YEN IN FUNDING  
EVERY TEN  
YEARS!

ANNUAL FUNDING  
FOR REGENERATIVE  
MEDICINE IS 20 BILLION  
YEN IN JAPAN, BUT IT  
IS 94 BILLION YEN IN  
AMERICA, AND THAT FROM  
GOVERNMENT-FUNDED  
RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS  
ALONE!

...BUT EVEN  
AFTER HIS  
RESEARCH GOT  
IMPLEMENTED,  
ALL THE  
ECONOMIC  
BENEFITS  
WENT TO  
AMERICA.

KYOTO  
UNIVERSITY'S  
PROFESSOR  
YAMANAKA  
WON THE  
NOBEL  
PRIZE...



IN WHAT  
OTHER NATION  
DOES A  
NOBEL-PRIZE  
WINNING  
RESEARCHER  
HAVE TO RUN A  
MARATHON FOR  
RESEARCH  
FUND-RAISING?

JAPAN IS  
ALWAYS LIKE  
THAT. EVEN IF  
A RESEARCHER  
OBTAINS DRAMATIC  
RESULTS WITH  
BLOOD AND TEARS,  
THEY ALWAYS  
FAIL AT THE  
MANUFACTURING  
STAGE.



TO DO THAT,  
WE HAVE TO  
AGGRESSIVELY  
INVEST! WE  
HAVE TO  
REVIVE OUR  
ASSETS THAT  
ARE ASLEEP!

WE HAVE  
TO ERADICATE  
THAT KIND  
OF PATHETIC  
SITUATION,  
AS FAST AS  
WE CAN!













I  
GET  
IT.



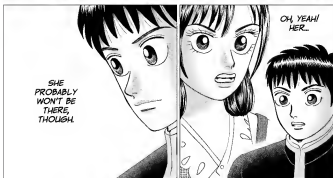
THAT'S  
WHAT  
HE  
SAID.

IF THE  
MASTER IS  
CONVINCED,  
HE WILL  
GIVE YOU  
PERMISSION  
TO LIQUIDATE  
THE ASSETS.



YEAH.  
ALL RIGHT.  
THANKS, I  
APPRECIATE  
IT.

THEN WE'LL  
GO TO  
TOKYO THIS  
WEEKEND.  
I WILL  
ACCOMPANY  
YOU.



SHE  
PROBABLY  
WON'T BE  
THERE,  
THOUGH.

OH, YEAH!  
HER...







THE RETURN  
FLIGHT WILL  
ARRIVE IN  
SAPPORO  
PAST  
9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY,  
TOMORROW,  
WE DEPART  
FOR TOKYO  
ON A 7:30  
A.M. FLIGHT.



WELL...

HOW  
WILL YOU  
EXPLAIN IT  
TO YOUR  
PARENTS?



I'LL  
LEAVE IT  
IN YOUR  
HANDS,  
THEN.

I'LL TELL  
THEM I'VE BEEN  
INDUCTED INTO  
A CHESS  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
TOURNAMENT.  
I DID SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT IN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL, SO I  
THINK THEY'LL  
BE FINE  
WITH IT.





WHAT?



...NOT  
GOING  
TO A  
JAPANESE  
UNIVERSITY.

I'M...



I'M  
PLANNING  
TO STUDY  
REGENERATIVE  
MEDICINE  
OVERSEAS.

I'M  
GOING TO A  
UNIVERSITY  
IN AMERICA  
AFTER I  
GRADUATE  
FROM HIGH  
SCHOOL.



I SEE...



YEAH,  
I HOPE  
YOU CAN  
DO IT.



...I'LL  
TRY TO  
MAKE SURE  
JAPANESE  
UNIVERSITIES'  
RESEARCH  
WILL BE THE  
FINEST.

ALL  
RIGHT.  
BY THE  
TIME YOU  
GRADUATE  
IN FOUR  
YEARS...







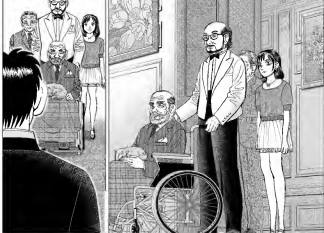


I THOUGHT THAT  
MAYBE SOMETHING  
CREEPY WOULD  
HAPPEN.



...BUT IT  
DOESN'T  
SEEM LIKE  
IT WILL.











YES.



...AND  
INVEST IN  
VENTURE  
BUSINESSES.  
IS THAT  
CORRECT?

SO YOU  
WANT TO  
LIQUIDATE  
THE ASSETS  
IN THE  
SAFE...



MY  
ANSWER  
TO YOUR  
IDEA IS  
NO.



93% OF  
JAPAN'S  
STARTUP  
VENTURES  
GO BROKE  
IN A MATTER  
OF TEN  
YEARS.

YOUR PLAN  
IS UTTERLY  
UNREALISTIC.



OUT OF THOSE,  
MAYBE ONE  
COMPANY WILL  
SURVIVE.. OUT  
OF A HUNDRED  
PEOPLE THAT  
START A  
BUSINESS,  
ONLY ONE WILL  
SUCCEED.

EVEN IF  
YOU WERE TO  
BET ON THE  
REMAINING 7%,  
THEY WOULD  
BE IN A  
STATE OF  
MANAGEMENT  
AND  
MAINTENANCE.



THUS I  
FORBID  
YOU FROM  
IMPLEMENTING  
YOUR PLAN.

I DOUBT A  
12-YEAR OLD  
BOY HAS THE  
ABILITY TO PICK  
OUT THAT ONE  
THAT WILL  
SUCCEED.





OH!  
I GET  
IT!



WHAT THE HECK...  
WHY DIDN'T HE  
JUST SAY THAT  
BEFORE I CAME  
HERE?



THEN WHY DID  
GRANDFATHER  
HAVE HIM COME  
ALL THE WAY  
HERE?



...IS  
TESTING  
ME!

THIS  
MAN...



WILL I GO  
AWAY NOW,  
OR WILL I  
STAND MY  
GROUND?

HE'S  
TESTING  
ME TO SEE  
HOW I'LL  
RESPOND TO  
HIS "NO"  
RIGHT OFF  
THE BAT.



ALL  
RIGHT.  
THIS'LL  
BE  
FUN.

I SEE...  
I GET  
IT.



I WILL  
DEFINITELY  
WIN!

I'LL  
CONVINCE  
HIM!



I NEED  
TO LAUNCH  
A SURPRISE  
ATTACK, MAKE  
HIM LOSE  
EQUANIMITY...

BUT FIRST,  
RELAX...  
IF I START  
ARGUING  
DIRECTLY,  
HE'LL ONLY  
COUNTER  
WITH ANOTHER  
ARGUMENT.



THAT'S  
IT!

...MAKE HIM  
CONFUSED,  
AND THEN  
MAKE MY  
STRIKE.





THEY  
BEAT  
US  
IN THE  
WAR...



...THEY  
RULE OUR  
INTERNET, THEY  
MANIPULATE  
OUR  
BUSINESSES...



...AND  
THEY'RE  
AHEAD OF  
US IN BIO-  
TECHNOLOGY,  
TOO!







ZAIZEN-KUN,  
WAS THAT  
THE TACTIC  
YOU USED  
TO SHUT  
YOUR  
SENPAIS  
UP?



IN CASES  
SUCH AS  
THIS, YOU  
MUSTN'T GET  
EMOTIONAL.  
OTHERWISE  
ZAIZEN-KUN  
WILL HAVE  
YOU RIGHT  
WHERE HE  
WANTS YOU.

MIYUKI...



HUH?



HUH?



YOUR  
APPROACH IN  
INFORMING ME  
OF THE CURRENT  
ECONOMIC  
SITUATION  
AND USING IT  
TO YOUR  
ADVANTAGE  
WAS A  
CORRECT  
ONE.

HOWEVER,  
IT IS A  
FACT  
THAT  
WE'RE IN  
A BAD  
PLACE.



SORRY  
TO SAY, BUT  
YOU CAN'T  
BUDGE ME  
WITH THAT  
LEVEL OF  
RHETORIC.





YES,  
I HATE  
LOSING,  
NO  
MATTER  
WHAT.



YOU  
DON'T  
LIKE TO  
LOSE.  
IS THAT  
IT?



WHY IS  
AMERICA  
YOUR  
POINT OF  
REFERENCE?



BECAUSE  
AMERICA  
WANTS TO  
MONOPOLIZE  
EVERYTHING.



HISSSS

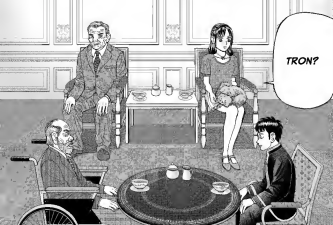


...IS  
THAT JAPAN  
LOST THE  
COMPETITION  
OF SOFTWARE  
DEVELOPMENT  
TO AMERICA.



WHAT  
IRKS  
ME THE  
MOST...









...IS,  
NEEDLESS  
TO SAY,  
MICROSOFT  
WINDOWS.  
IT'S AN  
AMERICAN  
CORPORATION.

THE  
STANDARD  
OF ALL  
COMPUTER  
OPERATING  
SYSTEMS  
IN THE  
WORLD...



...IT'S  
SAID THIS  
ONSLAUGHT  
CAN BE TRACED  
TO WINDOWS  
95, WHICH WENT  
ON SALE IN  
1995.

IT'S  
INSTALLED  
IN OVER  
90% OF  
COMPUTERS,  
AND...



HOWEVER,  
JAPAN WAS  
LITERALLY  
TEN YEARS  
AHEAD OF  
WINDOWS,  
HAVING  
DEVELOPED  
AN OS IN  
THE 1980S.

THE PERSONAL  
COMPUTER  
WHICH ANYONE  
COULD USE  
STARTED  
WITH THIS  
OPERATING  
SYSTEM.



TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY'S  
SAKAMURA  
KEN WAS THE  
DEVELOPER  
OF TRON.



IT WAS MADE  
ACCESSIBLE TO  
THE PUBLIC FOR  
FREE, WHICH WAS  
REVOLUTIONARY,  
THIS SURPRISED  
THE AMERICAN  
RESEARCHERS.

THE  
OPERATING  
SYSTEM  
WAS USER-  
FRIENDLY AND  
INCREDIBLY  
STABLE.



...WHICH  
LED TO  
THE TRON  
PROJECT,  
WHICH HAD  
OVER 140  
BUSINESSES  
IN IT.

SAKAMURA  
KEN'S  
IDEAS AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
ATTRACTED  
A LOT OF  
ATTENTION  
AND  
ACCLAIM.





MAJOR  
MAKERS  
IN JAPAN  
PRODUCED ONE  
TEST DESIGN  
AFTER ANOTHER,  
AND THEY WERE  
ONE STEP  
AWAY FROM  
COMPLETING A  
WORKABLE  
SYSTEM.

IN 1987,  
THE MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION  
DECIDED TO  
USE TRON FOR  
EDUCATIONAL  
PURPOSES,  
INSTALLING  
IT IN ALL  
COMPUTERS IN  
SCHOOLS.



...AMERICA  
BLOCKED  
THE WAY!

BUT IN  
1989...

SO  
AMERICA  
APPLIED  
PRESSURE  
TO  
JAPAN.



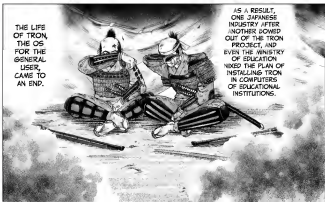
THEY SAID  
THAT IF TRON  
SWEEP ACROSS  
THE GLOBE,  
AMERICAN  
INDUSTRIES  
DEVELOPING  
OPERATING  
SYSTEMS  
WOULD BE  
DELIVERED A  
BLOW.

SO THEY  
THREATENED  
TO LIMIT  
IMPORTS  
FROM JAPAN,  
IF JAPAN  
DIDN'T  
WITHDRAW  
FROM  
THE TRON  
PROJECT.



AT THE TIME  
AMERICA WAS  
OVERWHELMED  
BY JAPANESE  
AUTOMOBILES  
AND HOUSEHOLD  
APPLIANCES, AND  
ITS FOREIGN  
TRADE WAS  
SUFFERING  
BANKRUPTCY.

THE LIFE  
OF TRON,  
THE OS  
FOR THE  
GENERAL  
USER,  
CAME TO  
AN END.



AS A RESULT,  
ONE JAPANESE  
INDUSTRY AFTER  
ANOTHER DOWED  
OUT OF THE TRON  
PROJECT, AND  
EVEN THE MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION  
NIXED THE PLAN OF  
INSTALLING TRON  
IN COMPUTERS  
OF EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS.

THE  
MEDIA?

IT'S  
SAID THE  
MEDIA HAD  
A LOT TO  
DO WITH IT.

WAIT... THEY  
ABANDONED  
SUCH AN  
IMPORTANT  
TECHNOLOGY  
JUST FROM  
THAT? IS THE  
JAPANESE  
GOVERNMENT  
THAT WIMPY?

TELEVISION  
INCESSANTLY  
BROADCAST  
IMAGES OF  
AMERICAN  
LABORERS  
SMASHING  
JAPANESE  
CARS, STEREO  
EQUIPMENT,  
ETC.

THE MEDIA  
WIDELY  
BROADCAST  
A LOT ABOUT  
THE FRICTION  
OF JAPAN-  
AMERICAN  
TRADE.

# TRON

ALTHOUGH  
THE GREAT  
NATION OF AMERICA  
WOULD NEVER  
DELIMIT IMPORTS,  
WHICH WOULD GO  
AGAINST FOREIGN  
TRADE RULES, JAPAN  
GOT SCARED, AND  
OFFERED THEM THE  
OLIVE BRANCH  
OF TRON.

THAT'S WHAT  
MADE THE JAPANESE  
GOVERNMENT AND  
INDUSTRIES SHAKE  
IN THEIR BOOTS...  
"AMERICA IS ANGRY  
FOR REAL."





THEY  
MISSED THEIR  
CHANCE AT  
LANDING  
A CLAIM AS  
AUTHORITY  
IN I.T.



BUT THEY  
DIDN'T... ALL  
BECAUSE  
THEY HAD  
NO VISION  
OF THE  
FUTURE.



THERE'S  
NO  
QUESTION  
JAPAN WAS  
LEADING  
THE  
WORLD  
IN I.T.  
AT THE  
TIME.

JAPAN  
HAD THE  
CHANCE TO  
BECOME A  
STRONGER  
NATION.



IF  
TRON HAD  
BECOME  
THE BASIC  
OPERATING  
SYSTEM  
FOR  
GENERAL  
USERS...

...JAPAN  
WOULD BE  
IN VERY A  
DIFFERENT  
POSITION  
TODAY  
IN I.T.



IT ALL  
SEEMS  
FUTILE.

BUT THEY  
MISSED THE  
BOAT, WHICH  
I DEEPLY  
REGRET.



IS  
THAT  
HOW  
IT IS?

WE DON'T  
WANT TO  
REPEAT  
THE SAME  
MISTAKE  
WITH LCD  
TECHNOLOGY.



I  
DEFINITELY  
HOPE THAT  
WILL BE  
THE CASE.

THAT'S RIGHT.  
THIS TIME,  
JAPANESE  
LIQUID CRYSTAL  
DISPLAY  
TECHNOLOGY  
WILL SURPASS  
AMERICA'S.



SURE,  
PROFESSOR  
YAMANAKA  
SHINYA'S  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF LIQUID  
CRYSTAL  
DISPLAY  
TECHNOLOGY  
WAS AMAZING.

IT  
MADE ME  
PROUD  
TO BE  
JAPANESE.



I  
WONDER  
ABOUT  
THAT...



HUH..?



CURRENTLY COUNTRIES ARE INTENSELY COMPETING IN I.P.S. DEVELOPMENT.

BUT THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS ALREADY SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD.



JAPAN'S FINALLY REVISED THEIR APPROVAL STANDARDS FOR REGENERATIVE PHARMACEUTICALS, BUT THE REST OF THE WORLD IS ALREADY WAY AHEAD OF US.



FOLLOWING AMERICA, JAPAN HAS FINALLY DEVELOPED ITS VERSION OF THE NIJH, AND IS TRYING TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY.



FUNDING IS SLOW AND LOW, WE'VE LOST THE RACE ALREADY. THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.

THEY'VE ALREADY GONE AROUND THE TRACK WHILE JAPAN LAGS BEHIND.







JAPANESE  
SKILLS IN  
MAKING  
THINGS GOES  
HAND-IN-HAND  
WITH THE  
REGENERATIVE  
MEDICINE  
INDUSTRY.

YES.



MAKE  
THINGS?



THIS PROCESS  
NECESSITATES REFINED  
MAINTENANCE. WHEN  
THE ENVIRONMENT OF  
TRANSPLANTATION IS  
THOROUGH, QUALITY  
GETS PRESERVED,  
JAPAN IS THE MOST  
ADEPT AT THIS  
PROCESS.

CULTIVATING  
AND TRANS-  
PLANTING  
CELLS.



THIS IS THE  
FIELD IN WHICH  
JAPAN CAN LEAD  
THE WORLD  
IN HAVING  
THE BIGGEST  
INFLUENCE, AND  
IT'S THE MOST  
ESSENTIAL  
ASPECT OF THE  
REGENERATIVE  
MEDICINE  
INDUSTRY!

QUALITY  
CONTROL  
IS WHERE  
JAPAN'S  
ABILITY  
TO MAKE  
THINGS  
COMES INTO  
PLAY!

BUT  
WHEN IT  
COMES  
TO MASS  
PRODUCTION,  
THEY'VE  
STILL GOT  
HURDLES TO  
JUMP.



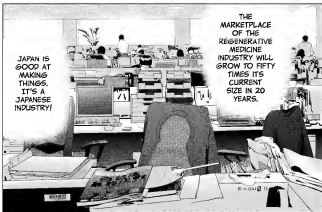
THE WORLD'S  
INDUSTRIES MAY  
BE AHEAD IN THE  
COMPETITION  
OF I.P.S.  
TECHNOLOGY  
DEVELOPMENT.

JAPANESE  
INDUSTRIES  
ARE SEASONED  
IN QUALITY  
CONTROL.  
THEY CAN LEAP  
OVER THAT  
WALL, AND BE  
AHEAD OF THE  
WORLD!



DESIGNING  
SYSTEMS  
OF MASS  
PRODUCTION  
IS THE  
PARTICULAR  
STRENGTH OF  
JAPANESE  
INDUSTRIES!

JAPAN IS  
GOOD AT  
MAKING  
THINGS.  
IT'S A  
JAPANESE  
INDUSTRY!



THE  
MARKETPLACE  
OF THE  
REGENERATIVE  
MEDICINE  
INDUSTRY WILL  
GROW TO FIFTY  
TIMES ITS  
CURRENT  
SIZE IN 20  
YEARS.



THE DIGITAL  
INDUSTRY GOT  
IMITATED BY  
CHINA AND KOREA,  
AND JAPAN GOT  
DEMOLISHED.  
MASS PRODUCTION  
TECHNOLOGY  
WILL EVENTUALLY  
GET SURPASSED,  
AS WELL!

YOU'RE AN  
IDIOT! MASS  
PRODUCTION  
TECHNOLOGY  
CAN BE  
EASILY  
IMITATED!

IF THIS  
NOBLE WORK  
ISN'T FUNDED  
BY THE  
COUNTRY AND  
IT GOES THE  
FRUSTRATING  
WAY OF TRON,  
ARE YOU  
OKAY WITH  
THAT?!

IS  
PROFESSOR  
YAMANAKA'S  
WORK  
GOING TO  
WASTE,  
THEN?















...I WILL  
SERVE AS A  
HOUSEKEEPER  
OF THE FUJITA  
HOUSEHOLD  
FOR THE  
REST OF  
MY LIFE?

IF MY  
INVESTMENT  
FAILS...



OF  
COURSE  
I'M NOT  
AGREEING  
TO THAT!



THAT'S  
CRAZY!

*I  
REFUSE!*

*THERE'S  
JUST NO  
WAY!*



*THIS IS  
ALSO A  
TEST!*

*BUT IF I DON'T  
AGREE TO THE  
CONDITION, I  
WON'T BE ABLE  
TO INVEST.*



*HM?  
I GET  
IT...*





YOU  
CANNOT  
NEGOTIATE  
THIS.



HE'S  
TESTING ME  
AGAIN TO SEE  
IF I'LL TRY  
AND BARGAIN  
MY WAY OUT  
OF THIS  
ABSOLUTELY  
RIDICULOUS  
CONDITION.



WHAT...



HOUSEKEEPER  
FOR LIFE. IF  
YOU CANNOT  
AGREE TO IT,  
THEN GET UP  
AND LEAVE.

ARGUE ALL  
YOU WANT;  
I WILL NOT  
WITHDRAW  
THE  
CONDITION.



WHAT  
IS?



ISN'T  
THAT A  
LITTLE  
WEIRD?

WAIT A  
SECOND,  
PLEASE.



THAT'S  
WHAT I WAS  
ASSURED, SO  
I CAME ALL  
THE WAY  
HERE FROM  
SAPPORO.

I WAS  
TOLD I  
COULD GET  
PERMISSION IF  
I CONVINCED  
YOU, THE  
MASTER OF  
THE FUJITA  
FAMILY.



BUT YOU  
AGREED, AND  
NOW YOU'RE  
SETTING A  
CONDITION.  
WOULDN'T YOU  
SAY THAT'S  
BREAKING THE  
RULES?

IF MY  
EXPLANATION  
TO YOU WAS  
INSUFFICIENT  
AND HENCE  
UNACCEPTABLE,  
I'LL GLADLY  
LEAVE.



YES,  
BECAUSE  
YOU SHOULD  
HAVE LAID THE  
CONDITION  
DOWN  
FROM THE  
OUTSET.

YOU  
THINK  
SO?



VERY  
LENIENT?



AS FAR  
AS I'M  
CONCERNED,  
THE  
CONDITION  
IS VERY  
LENIENT.



THIS IS A  
QUESTION  
OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS.  
IT'S  
MORALLY  
WRONG!

YOU'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT A  
PERSON'S  
FUTURE!



IT'S A  
MENTALITY  
FROM  
BYGONE  
DAYS OF  
SLAVERY!

YOU'RE  
SELLING A  
HUMAN LIFE  
FOR THINGS  
LIKE  
PAINTINGS  
AND  
SCULPTURES.



WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN,  
IT'S  
LENIENT?

YOU'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
THE  
REST  
OF MY  
LIFE!



WHAT...



IS YOUR  
LIFE SO  
HIGHLY  
VALUABLE?







DEPENDENCE  
UPON.

LIVE  
IN.



YOU  
LISTEN  
TO ME,  
ZAIZEN-  
KUN.

ALL  
HUMAN  
BEINGS  
LIVE IN  
DEPENDENCE  
UPON  
SOMETHING.



YOUR  
PARENTS  
ARE  
DEPENDENT  
ON THEIR  
WORKPLACE.

INDUSTRIES  
ARE  
DEPENDENT  
ON  
CONSUMERS.  
GOVERNMENT  
BODIES ARE  
DEPENDENT  
ON  
TAXPAYERS.



...AND YET  
I DEPEND  
ON THE  
ESTATE MY  
ANCESTORS  
BEQUEATHED  
ME.

HERE I AM  
PROPOUNDING  
LOFTY  
NOTIONS  
TO YOU.



YOU'RE  
JUST A  
CHILD, AND  
DEPENDENT  
ON YOUR  
PARENTS.



BUREAUCRATS  
ARE  
DEPENDENT ON  
ORGANIZATIONS.

POLITICIANS  
ARE  
DEPENDENT  
ON  
VOTERS.

ADVENTURERS  
ARE  
DEPENDENT  
ON  
SPONSORS.

RESEARCHERS  
ARE  
DEPENDENT  
ON  
FUNDING.

WRITERS ARE  
DEPENDENT ON  
READERS.

ACTORS AND  
MUSICIANS  
ARE  
DEPENDENT  
ON  
AUDIENCES.

FREEDOM?

WHERE  
IS THE  
FREEDOM  
IN ANY OF  
THAT?

ZAIZEN-KUN,  
LET ME ASK  
YOU THIS.





JOB-  
HUNTING?



A TYPICAL  
EXAMPLE  
OF THIS  
IS THE  
COLLEGE  
STUDENT'S  
JOB-  
HUNTING.

THEY  
MAKE LIFE  
CHOICES  
BASED ON  
THAT  
MISTAKEN  
ASSUMP-  
TION.



...TO JOIN  
A RACE, A RACE  
DECIDING WHO  
WILL PROVIDE  
THEIR TIME IN  
LABOR TO WHICH  
INDUSTRY FOR  
ABOUT 40 YEARS  
AS A WORKER.

TO JOB-  
HUNT IS...



300  
MILLION YEN.  
INVESTMENTS?



PUT  
ANOTHER  
WAY... YOU  
COULD SAY  
JOBS  
ARE 300  
MILLION  
YEN  
INVEST-  
MENTS.

THIS  
IS AN  
INVEST-  
MENT OF  
HUMAN  
LIFE  
ITSELF!

THE LIFETIME  
FUNDING OF  
AN AVERAGE  
SALARY-MAN  
IS ABOUT 280  
MILLION YEN. IN  
OTHER WORDS, HE  
DEVOTES HIS LIFE  
TO AN INDUSTRY  
FOR A PRICE THAT  
IS CLOSE TO 300  
MILLION YEN.



JOB-  
HUNTING IS  
THE START  
OF THE  
IMPORTANT  
RACE TO  
DETERMINE  
WHETHER  
ONE WILL  
WIN OR  
LOSE IN  
LIFE.

WILL THAT  
INVESTMENT  
YIELD BENEFITS  
AND RETURNS  
THAT LEAD TO  
HAPPINESS?





AND OF COURSE, IF IT WEREN'T FOR CORPORATIONS ON WHICH LIVES DEPEND, THERE WOULDN'T BEEN ANY WORK, AND THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY INCOME.

A HUMAN LIFE IS ONLY WORTH ABOUT 300 MILLION YEN, WHICH DOESN'T HAVE THAT MUCH VALUE.



ONE MUST THINK, AND THEN DECIDE.

IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS LACK OF FREEDOM THAT ONE MUST CONSIDER WHERE TO INVEST ONE'S LIFE.



THEY FOOLHARDILY FORGE AHEAD AND EASILY DECIDE THEIR PLACE OF LIFE-INVESTMENT WILLY-NILLY.

HOWEVER, JAPANESE COLLEGE STUDENTS PUT NO THOUGHT INTO THESE THINGS WHATSOEVER.



IT'S THE WORST KIND OF ACTION TO TAKE AS AN INVESTOR.

ONCE THEY'RE EMPLOYED, EVEN IF SITUATIONS TAKE A DOWNTURN, THEY DON'T CUT THEIR LOSSES; THEY STICK TO THE JOB AS IF THEY ARE PICKED IN SALT, GRIPING ABOUT THEIR DISSATISFACTION FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.



THE  
GREATEST  
REASON WHY  
PEOPLE FAIL AT  
THE INVESTMENT  
OF LIFE IS  
BECAUSE THEY  
BELIEVE THEY  
ARE BORN  
FREE.

THEY  
MISTAKENLY  
BELIEVE THAT  
THEY ARE  
VALUABLE,  
AND DO NOT  
UNDERSTAND  
THE REAL  
TRUTH OF  
THINGS.



SO DON'T  
RUSH AND  
DECIDE.

I'LL GIVE  
YOU A LITTLE  
ELBOW ROOM;  
GO BACK TO  
SAPPORO AND  
THINK IT OVER  
CAREFULLY.











BUT  
THAT'LL  
BE THEN  
THIS IS  
NOW...

...AND I WILL  
FIGHT, AND MAKE  
FREEDOM MY  
OWN THROUGH  
VICTORY!







ZAIZEN  
TAKASHI. A  
FORMIDABLE  
FORCE TO BE  
RECKONED  
WITH.

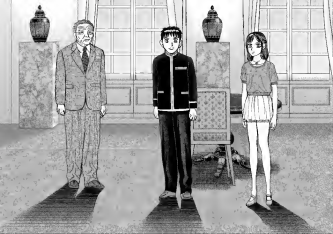
HE MADE HIS  
DECISION RIGHT  
ON THE SPOT..



...BRING  
CALAMITOUS  
ADVERSITY  
UPON  
DOJUKU  
ONE DAY!

THAT  
BOY WILL  
SURELY..









EXACTLY??



SPEAKING  
OF  
WHICH.

...WHAT  
EXACTLY  
ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
INVEST  
IN?



...OR  
FINANCING?

YOU KNOW,  
ARE YOU  
LENDING...



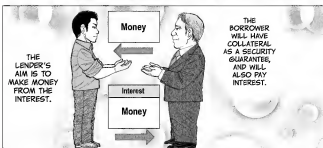
GOOD  
GUESS.

AND YOU  
PLAN TO  
INVEST  
BILLIONS  
WITHOUT  
KNOWING  
SUCH  
THINGS?



FINANC-  
ING?

LENDING?





THE  
RECEIVER  
DOESN'T HAVE  
TO PAY THE  
MONEY BACK,  
AND NATURALLY  
THERE IS NO  
COLLATERAL  
AND NO  
INTEREST.



ON THE  
OTHER HAND,  
FINANCING IS  
TO FLAT OUT  
GIVE OUT  
MONEY.

WHICH  
MEANS A  
PORTION OF  
THE COMPANY'S  
MANAGEMENT  
RIGHTS IS  
GIVEN TO THE  
FINANCER.



SOUNDS LIKE A  
SWEET DEAL, BUT  
THE RECEIVER  
MUST GIVE AN  
EQUIVALENT  
AMOUNT IN  
SHARES TO THE  
FINANCER.

BUT IF  
THEY GIVE  
AWAY TOO MANY  
SHARES, THERE'S  
THE RISK THAT  
THE RECIPIENT  
WILL LOSE THEIR  
MANAGEMENT  
RIGHTS.



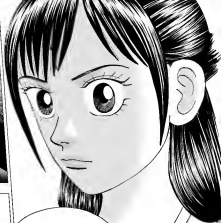
THERE'S NO  
RISK, UNLIKE  
LENDING, SO  
THE RECIPIENT  
WILL DO  
WHATEVER  
THEY CAN TO  
MAKE THEIR  
BUSINESS  
SUCCESSFUL.





I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU





IF YOU  
HAVE AN  
COUNTER-  
ARGUMENT,  
I'D LIKE TO  
HEAR IT.



ONLY  
MONEY  
CAN GIVE  
YOU TRUE  
FREEDOM.



I THINK  
YOU'RE  
ABSOLUTELY  
RIGHT.

NO...  
I DON'T  
HAVE  
ONE.

I WAS  
GOING TO  
DEMOLISH  
YOU IF YOU  
CLAIMED  
OTHERWISE.

THEN  
WE'RE  
ON THE  
SAME  
PAGE.



WELL...  
SEE  
YOU





THE  
MAN WHO  
BUILT THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB AT  
DOJUKU INTO  
WHAT IT IS  
TODAY.

ZAIZEN  
RYUGORO.




THEY  
LOOK  
LIKE DEAD  
RINGERS.

HIS  
GREAT-  
GRAND-  
SON IS  
ZAIZEN  
TAKASHI.



THE  
PRODIGY IN  
MATH WHO  
SHOWED A  
STUNNING  
ABILITY IN  
INVESTMENTS.

OH,  
AROUND  
MID-  
MEIJI  
PERIOD.



AFTER RYUGORO  
GRADUATED FROM  
DOJUKU, HE TOOK  
A LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE FROM  
THE MATH  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TOKYO IMPERIAL  
UNIVERSITY,  
AND BECAME A  
CHARISMATIC  
FIGURE IN THE  
FINANCIAL  
WORLD.

AND  
THEN...

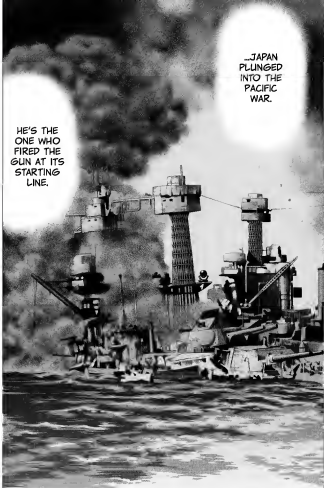


EVEN BEFORE  
HE EMERGED  
ON THE SCENE,  
THE FUJITA  
FAMILY HAD  
AN INVESTMENT  
CLUB THE  
STUDENTS  
RAN, AND THEY  
YIELDED  
PROFIT BEYOND  
EXPECTATIONS.

ZAIZEN  
RYU-  
GORO.

HE'S THE  
ONE WHO  
FIRED THE  
GUN AT ITS  
STARTING  
LINE.

...JAPAN  
PLUNGED  
INTO THE  
PACIFIC  
WAR.







AND HIS  
GREAT-  
GRANDSON  
IS ZAIZEN  
TAKASHI.

HE'S THE  
ONE THAT  
LED THE  
NATION  
TO RUIN.



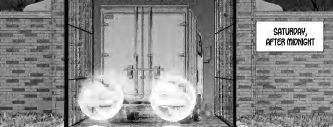
...PANDORA'S  
BOX.

I HAVE THE  
FEELING I'VE  
OPENED THE  
FORBIDDEN.













I'M QUITE  
RELIEVED.

TRUTH  
BE  
TOLD...



YOU  
THINK  
SO?

ZEN'S IN,  
YOU LOOK  
CHEERFUL.  
I THOUGHT  
MAYBE  
YOU'D BE  
SAD SEEING  
THE  
TREASURES  
GO.



HUH?



I'M  
REALLY  
GRATEFUL  
TO ZAIZEN-  
KUN.

I'M  
FRANKLY  
TIRED OF  
MONITORING  
THESE  
PRICELESS  
THINGS.  
I'VE BEEN  
DOING IT  
FOR 50  
YEARS.

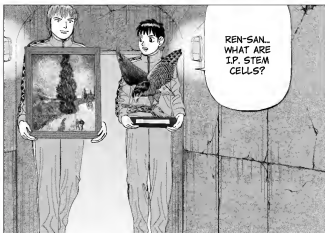


YES,  
AND  
I AM  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
THAT.

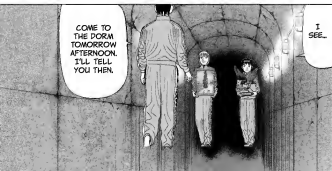
BUT  
THAT GUY'S  
GOT A  
STEEP  
ROAD  
AHEAD OF  
HIM.

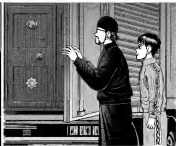


I SEE...















THOSE THINGS  
HAD NEVER  
BEEN DIVESTED,  
THEY'VE BEEN  
KEPT IN  
STORAGE  
THROUGH  
WARS AND  
BUBBLES  
BURSTING.

I MUST SAY  
THIS IS AN  
EVENT THAT  
WILL HAVE  
QUITE AN  
IMPACTON ON  
THE INVEST-  
MENT CLUB'S  
HISTORY.



ZAIZEN,  
IT'S ALL  
RIDING  
ON YOUR  
INVESTMENT  
DECISIONS.

WILL THIS  
BE A PIVOTAL  
POINT IN  
HISTORY,  
OR WILL IT  
BE THE  
GREATEST  
BLEMISH?

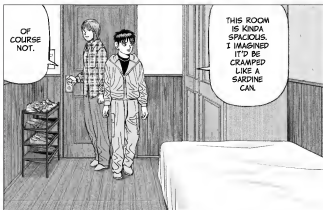


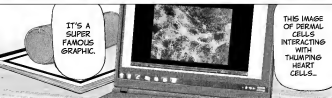
IT'S  
TOO LATE  
FOR THAT  
NOW.

THAT'S  
WHY I  
TOLD YOU  
NOT TO  
DO IT.



MAN,  
THAT'S A  
LOT OF  
PRESSURE.







...“INDUCED  
PLURIPOTENT  
STEM CELL.”

INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL

I.P.S.  
STANDS  
FOR...



...SUCH  
AS OF  
THE HEART,  
LIVER, SKIN,  
NERVES,  
AND SO  
ON.

SIMPLY  
PUT, IT'S AN  
ARTIFICIALLY  
ENGINEERED  
CELL THAT CAN  
TRANSFORM  
INTO VARIOUS  
KINDS  
OF OTHER  
CELLS...



...AND  
PRODUCED  
AN “ALL-  
PURPOSE”  
CELL.

PROFESSOR  
YAMANAKA  
INJECTED  
FOUR GENES  
INTO NORMAL  
CELLS LIKE  
DERMAL  
CELLS...





THE  
NUMBER  
OF SICK  
PEOPLE WILL  
DIMINISH  
DRASTICALLY.  
IT'S  
AMAZING.

IT'S A  
DREAMLIKE  
TECH-  
NOLOGY.



...SO  
ORGAN  
TRANS-  
PLANTS  
COULD  
BE DONE  
MORE  
SAFELY.

IF  
THIS GETS  
IMPLEMENTED  
FOR REAL,  
ORGANS  
COULD BE  
PRODUCED  
FROM  
YOUR OWN  
CELLS...



...DO  
ORGANS GET  
PRODUCED  
OUT OF YOUR  
OWN CELLS?

SO  
HOW...



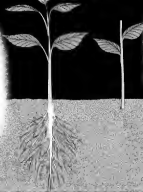
I THINK  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
THEY CALL  
"CUTTAGE."



IF YOU  
CUT THE  
STEM OF A  
PLANT AND  
BURY IT IN  
SOIL, IT'LL  
GROW  
ROOTS AND  
ANOTHER  
STEM,  
RIGHT?

WELL...

PLANT  
CELLS HAVE  
THE ABILITY TO  
REGENERATE  
INTO VARIOUS  
KINDS OF CELLS.  
THAT WAS  
ALWAYS  
UNDERSTOOD  
TO BE THE BIG  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN THEM  
AND ANIMAL  
CELLS.



THAT'S  
RIGHT.  
BUT IF YOU  
CUT OFF  
HUMAN  
LEGS, THEY  
WON'T  
GROW  
BACK,  
RIGHT?

SO, FOR  
EXAMPLE, A SINGLE  
FERTILIZED EGG  
DIFFERENTIATES INTO  
TWO, FOUR, EIGHT,  
OR SO ON SPLITS  
OF CELLS, WHICH  
EVENTUALLY BECOME  
ABOUT SIX BILLION  
CELLS. AT  
THAT POINT, THE  
DIFFERENTIATION  
ENDS.



ANIMALS  
DO NOT  
POSSESS  
THAT KIND  
OF ALL-  
PURPOSE  
CELLS.

CELLS OF THE HEART ARE CELLS OF THE HEART, CELLS OF THE NERVES ARE CELLS OF THE NERVES, IN THAT WAY, THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF CELLS ARE ONE-WAY ROADS. THIS WAS THE NORMAL STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE WORLD OF BIOLOGY.



ONCE THE PROCESS OF DIFFERENTIATION IS FINISHED, THOSE CELLS CANNOT BECOME OTHER CELLS.

IT WAS ALREADY KNOWN THAT ANIMALS CELLS HAVE THAT KIND OF ABILITY.

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

HOWEVER, PROFESSOR YAMANAKA DISCOVERED THAT ANIMAL CELLS HAVE ALL-PURPOSE POTENTIAL LIKE PLANT CELLS DO!

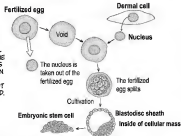
WHEN SPERM AND EGG JOIN, FERTILIZATION HAPPENS; THIS IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE, WHICH INDEED IS THE ALL-PURPOSE CELL.

THAT'S RIGHT.

BECAUSE FERTILIZED EGGS BECOME ALL KINDS OF SYSTEMS AND ORGANS.

OH, RIGHT.

BUT  
BIOETHICAL  
ISSUES CAME  
UP, AND ITS  
APPLICATION  
TO HUMAN  
BEINGS GOT  
QUESTIONED.



BUT THE  
EMBRYONIC STEM  
CELL CLAIMED THE  
WORLD'S ATTENTION,  
DISPLAYING THOSE  
QUALITIES, EVEN  
BEFORE THE  
DISCOVERY OF IPS.  
THEY SUCCEEDED  
IN PRODUCING  
NEW MULTIPURPOSE  
CELLS USING  
FERTILIZED EGGS.

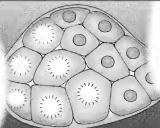


GENES...  
DISAPPEAR?



WAY BACK  
THEN, IT WAS  
BELIEVED  
THAT GENES  
DISAPPEAR.

IT WAS  
BELIEVED THAT  
ONLY GENES  
NECESSARY  
FOR DERMAL  
CELLS REMAIN,  
AND THE REST  
"DISAPPEAR."



FOR EXAMPLE,  
DERMAL CELLS...  
THE FERTILIZED  
EGG DISCREETLY  
DIVIDES, AND  
SOME CELLS  
DIFFERENTIATE  
INTO DERMAL  
CELLS.

THAT WAS  
PROFESSOR  
JOHN GURDON,  
WHO RECEIVED  
THE NOBEL PRIZE  
IN CONJUNCTION  
WITH PROFESSOR  
YAMANAKA.

BUT  
THERE WAS A  
SCIENTIST WHO  
TENACIOUSLY  
RESEARCHED  
THE MATTER,  
BECAUSE HE  
WONDERED, "DO  
GENES REALLY  
DISAPPEAR?"

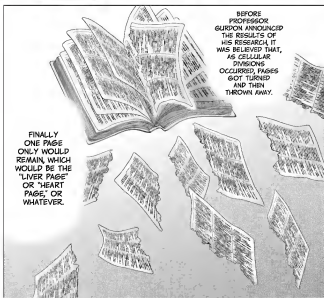
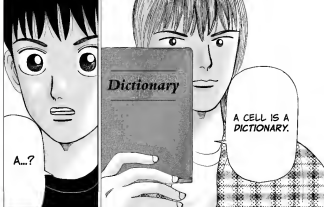
...ALL CELLS  
POSSESS  
GENES THAT  
SIGNAL  
CELLS TO  
DIFFERENTIATE  
INTO MANY  
VARIETIES.

PROFESSOR  
GURDON  
FOUND THAT,  
ANIMAL OR  
PLANT...

HUH?

A CELL  
IS THIS.

THE  
RESULT  
OF HIS  
RESEARCH  
CAN BE  
SUMMED  
UP THIS  
WAY!



NO  
MATTER  
HOW MANY  
TIMES A CELL  
DIVIDES, THE  
DICTIONARY  
REMAINS  
INTACT!

BUT HE  
FOUND  
THAT...



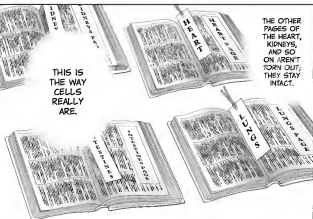
THE CELLS  
THAT BECOME  
SKIN HAVE A  
BOOKMARK  
ON THE  
"SKIN PAGE"  
THAT'S ALL.

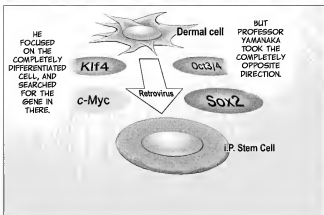
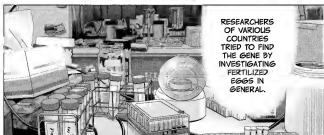
THE ONLY  
THING THAT  
CHANGES IS  
THE PAGE  
THAT HAS A  
BOOKMARK  
ON IT.



THIS IS  
THE WAY  
CELLS  
REALLY  
ARE.

THE OTHER  
PAGES OF  
THE HEART,  
KIDNEYS,  
AND SO  
ON AREN'T  
TORN OUT;  
THEY STAY  
INTACT.







HE  
SUCCEEDED IN  
CHANGING AN  
ORDINARY CELL-  
LIKE THE DERMAL  
CELL INTO AN  
"ALL-PURPOSE  
CELL." AND THAT  
CELL IS THE LP.  
STEM CELL!

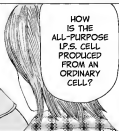
AS A  
RESULT, BY  
INJECTING  
ONLY FOUR  
GENES INTO A  
NORMAL CELL,  
HE DISCOVERED  
THE BOOKMARK  
GENE OF THE  
EMBRYONIC  
STEM CELL!


PROFESSOR  
YAMANAKA'S  
GREAT  
WORK WAS  
ENGINEERING  
AN ALL-  
PURPOSE CELL  
OUT THAT  
WASN'T FROM  
A FERTILIZED  
EGG.

WOW!  
PROFESSOR  
YAMANAKA  
DID IT!

IT  
REFLECTS  
THE HOPE  
THAT THE  
TECHNOLOGY  
WILL SPREAD  
WORLDWIDE.

BY THE  
WAY, THE  
"T" OF "IPS  
CELL" IS  
LOWERCASE,  
LIKE THE "T"  
IN APPLE'S  
"IPOD."





BY ADDING  
A GENE CALLED  
THE "YAMANAKA  
FACTOR," THEY  
WERE ABLE  
TO INSERT A  
BOOKMARK INTO  
THE PAGE OF  
ALL-PURPOSE  
CELLS; BUT AS TO  
WHY IT WORKS, NO  
ONE KNOWS.

THEY  
DON'T  
KNOW.



WHY NOT?  
BECAUSE IT  
ACTUALLY  
WORKS.

IS THAT  
OKAY?



I THINK  
THEY SHOULD  
RESEARCH THE  
PRINCIPLE AT  
WORK.

I  
DUNNO.

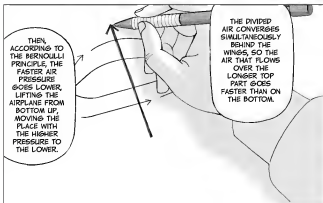
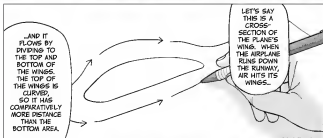


...DO YOU  
KNOW WHY  
AIRPLANES  
FLY?

WELL...









THAT'S  
JUST A  
HYPOTHESIS.



ISN'T  
THAT  
ALL  
THERE  
IS TO  
IT?

THIS  
IS THE  
PRINCIPLE  
BEHIND  
WHY  
PLANES  
FLY.



WHAT?



OH...

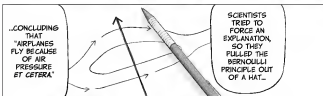
DOES AIR  
SIMULTANE-  
OUSLY  
CONVERGE  
BEHIND THE  
WINGS?



BUT THEY  
WERE ABLE TO  
CONFIRM BY  
EXPERIMENT  
THAT THE AIR  
THAT FLOWS  
OVER THE TOP  
IS FASTER.



WHEN THEY  
EXPERIMENTED,  
THEY FOUND  
THAT THE AIR  
THAT DIVIDES  
TO THE TOP  
AND BOTTOM  
DOESN'T  
ACTUALLY  
CONVERGE  
TOGETHER.









YOU  
FORGE  
AHEAD,  
EVEN IF  
YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.  
I THINK  
THAT'S  
WHAT'S  
IMPORTANT.

YOU DON'T  
STAY STUCK  
IN ONE PLACE  
BECAUSE  
YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
SOMETHING.



I  
AGREE.

YOU FORGE  
AHEAD, EVEN  
IF YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.



YES.  
THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR  
SUPPORT.

LET'S  
INVESTIGATE  
JAPANESE  
BIOTECH  
INDUSTRIES.  
IT'LL PROBABLY  
HELP YOU TO  
FIND POTENTIAL  
VENTURE  
INVESTMENTS.









A black and white illustration of an elderly man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie, sitting in a chair. He is gesturing with his hands while speaking.

HE SAID MY  
FATHER'S FATHER,  
MY GRANDFATHER  
KONOSUKE, MARRIED  
THREE WOMEN, AND  
MY FATHER IS THE  
SON OF THE  
THIRD WIFE.

UNCLE  
KAZUYOSHI  
STARTED  
TALKING.

A black and white illustration of a young man with glasses, wearing a collared shirt and a jacket, sitting in a chair. He is looking slightly to the side.

THERE ARE  
A TOTAL OF  
EIGHT SIBLINGS,  
INCLUDING HIM  
AND MY DAD.

UNCLE  
KAZUYOSHI IS  
THE OLDEST  
CHILD OF THE  
SECOND WIFE,  
AND HE'S OVER  
60 YEARS OLD.

A black and white illustration of a young man and a young woman sitting together. The woman is on the left, looking towards the man on the right. The man is wearing a hoodie and looking forward.

...MY  
GRANDFATHER  
KONOSUKE  
DIED AT THE  
AGE OF 96.

LAST  
MONTH,  
HE SAID...





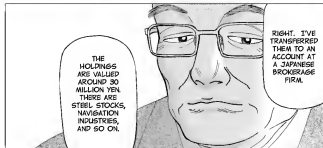


STOCKS?



IN WHICH..

...TAKAHIKO-KUN.. HE SAYS THAT HE WANTS YOU TO HAVE HIS STOCK HOLDINGS.



THE HOLDINGS ARE VALUED AROUND 30 MILLION YEN. THERE ARE STEEL STOCKS, NAVIGATION INDUSTRIES, AND SO ON.

RIGHT. I'VE TRANSFERRED THEM TO AN ACCOUNT AT A JAPANESE BROKERAGE FIRM.



NO.

TAKASHI, LEAVE THE ROOM.



TH-THIRTY MILLION?









OH?  
WHY?



..LIVES IN  
SAPPORO,  
HOKKAIDO.

I MUST  
SAY  
I WAS  
SURPRISED  
TO HEAR  
THAT HE..



IT'S  
JUST  
UNUSUAL  
FOR A  
ZAIZEN  
FAMILY  
MEMBER  
TO LIVE IN  
HOKKAIDO.

OH.  
NOTHING.



..THAT WE  
SIBLINGS  
MUST NEVER  
GO TO  
HOKKAIDO.

OUR  
PARENTS AND  
RELATIVES  
HAVE TOLD  
US STRICTLY,  
EVER SINCE  
WE WERE  
LITTLE..



I  
THINK MAYBE  
SOMETHING  
UNFORTUNATE  
MIGHT HAVE  
HAPPENED IN  
HOKKAIDO, A  
LONG TIME  
AGO.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHY.



WHY... IS  
THAT?



OH,  
HERE'S  
THE  
BUS.



Y-YES.

BUT PLEASE  
DON'T BE  
CONCERNED  
ABOUT SUCH  
THINGS.



HAVE  
A SAFE  
TRIP.

WELL,  
THEN,  
I'M  
OFF.



BYE..  
SEE YOU  
AGAIN.



GOODBYE.



AS I SAW MY  
UNCLE'S BUS  
LEAVE, I FELT  
FLUTTERING  
WAVES IN MY  
CHEST.



ON MY  
FATHER'S SIDE,  
I ONLY KNOW MY  
UNCLE, WHO I JUST  
MET TODAY. I ALSO  
JUST LEARNED  
THAT MY FATHER'S  
MOTHER DIED A  
LONG TIME AGO.

I THOUGHT  
ABOUT IT,  
AND THE ONLY  
RELATIVES I  
KNOW ARE MY  
MOTHER'S  
FAMILY IN  
ASAHINAKA.



AN  
UNIMAGINABLE  
LABYRINTH  
HAD SUDDENLY  
OPENED BEFORE  
ME, SOMETHING  
ENTIRELY  
DIFFERENT  
FROM THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB.

AND THEN A  
BEQUEATHAL  
OF 30 MILLION  
YEN WORTH OF  
STOCKS, AS IF  
RAINED FROM  
THE HEAVENS.



AND THE  
CONNECTION  
OF THE  
ZAISEN  
FAMILY TO  
HOKKAIDO.

THE  
KEY TO  
THE PUZZLE  
LIES IN MY  
FATHER'S  
ROOTS.



WHAT  
WILL I  
FIND?

WHAT'S  
THE  
SECRET?



AND  
WHERE AM I  
GOING?

WHO AM I?  
WHERE DID I  
COME FROM?





HEY...  
MOM.



DID YOU  
KNOW  
ABOUT  
DAD'S  
BROTHER?



YES,  
I'D HEARD  
SOME  
THINGS  
ABOUT  
HIM  
BEFORE  
WE GOT  
MARRIED.





HE LIVED  
AT HIS  
MOTHER'S  
OLDER  
BROTHER'S  
HOME.  
THAT UNCLE  
ALSO PASSED  
AWAY.

AFTER  
THAT...



...DIED  
WHEN  
HE WAS IN  
THE FIRST  
YEAR OF  
JUNIOR  
HIGH.

YOUR  
FATHER'S  
MOTHER...



HE SAID  
THE HOUSE  
HE LIVED IN  
WITH HIS  
MOTHER WAS  
A RENTAL,  
SO HE HAS  
NO FAMILY  
HOME TO  
SPEAK OF.



HIS  
CLOSEST  
BLOOD-  
TIES.

SO  
WE'RE  
DAD'S  
ONLY  
FAMILY.



YEAH..  
I KNOW  
WE ARE.

THAT'S  
RIGHT..  
THAT'S WHY  
THE TWO  
OF YOU  
ARE SO  
PRECIOUS  
TO HIM.





BUT  
I'M ALL  
RIGHT.

YEAH. A  
LITTLE.



I BET  
YOU WERE  
SURPRISED  
TODAY.



WHY DID  
YOU GO TO  
HOKKAIDO  
UNIVERSITY?

U.M.



GOOD.



...MY HIGH  
SCHOOL  
TEACHER  
SUGGESTED  
IT.

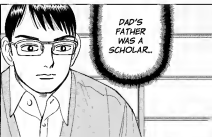
WELL...



HE SAID THERE  
WERE MANY  
OUTSTANDING  
TEACHERS  
AT HOKKAIDO  
UNIVERSITY,  
AND SUGGESTED  
I STUDY WITH  
THEM.



YOUR  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
TEACHER?



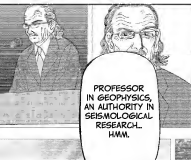




MY MOTHER HAD NO CONTACT WITH THE ZAISEN SIDE, EITHER.







ZAIZEN  
KONO-  
SUKE.



HE  
WAS A  
SCHOLAR,  
AND YET HE  
DEALT IN  
STOCKS.







JUST  
800 BILLION  
YEN IN  
JAPAN.

THE  
WORLDWIDE  
GAMING  
MARKET IS  
ONLY WORTH  
ABOUT  
6 TRILLION  
YEN.



ONE  
SINGLE  
BUSINESS  
EXCEEDS  
THE ENTIRE  
GAME  
INDUSTRY  
IN SCOPE.

ON THE  
WHOLE,  
7-ELEVEN  
PROFITS  
ABOUT 9.9  
TRILLION  
YEN.



I REALIZED  
THAT FLASHY  
AND SHOWY  
INDUSTRIES  
ARE ACTUALLY  
QUITE SMALL.

I CAME  
TO REALIZE  
THAT THIS  
KIND OF  
COMPARISON  
IS EXTREMELY  
IMPORTANT.

EVERY  
TIME A NEW  
PRODUCTION  
COMES OUT, THEY  
ADVERTISE ON A  
BIG SCALE USING  
VARIOUS MEDIA.  
AT A GLANCE, IT  
SEEMS LIKE A  
PROSPEROUS  
INDUSTRY...



TAKE  
THE FILM  
INDUSTRY.

...BUT THE  
JAPANESE  
FILM MARKET  
IS WORTH  
ONLY 190  
BILLION  
YEN!



EVEN THE  
PICKLED GINGER  
MARKET IS WORTH  
10 BILLION, SO  
WHEN YOU LOOK  
AT IT THAT WAY,  
IT'S NOT MUCH OF  
A MARKET.

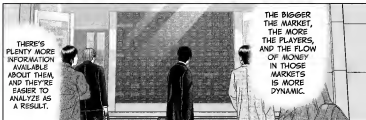


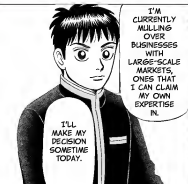
THAT'S ONLY  
HALF THE  
SIZE OF THE  
BEEF BOWL  
MARKET.

WELL-KNOWN  
TRADES AND  
BUSINESSES  
PARTICULARLY  
POPULAR AMONG  
YOUTH HAVE  
SMALL MARKETS,  
AND THEY'RE  
ECONOMICALLY  
WEAK.



YOU CAN  
SEE HOW  
THE WORLD  
WORKS BY  
COMPARING  
SCALES OF  
THE MARKET.





I'M CURRENTLY MULLING OVER BUSINESSES WITH LARGE-SCALE MARKETS, ONES THAT I CAN CLAIM MY OWN EXPERTISE IN.



ALL RIGHT... LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.







CHOOSING  
A MARKET  
BASED ON  
WHETHER THEY  
HAVE WOMEN  
WHO PLAY A  
MAJOR PART.

INDUSTRIES  
IN WHICH  
WOMEN  
HAVE A  
PROMINENT  
ROLE.



ISN'T  
IT?

OH!  
THAT'S  
GOOD.



LET'S  
INVESTIGATE  
WHICH  
INDUSTRIES  
HAVE WOMEN  
IN HIGH  
POSITIONS.



SO WE  
THOUGHT,  
"LET'S  
FOCUS  
ON  
WOMEN."

WE LOOKED  
AT ALL THE  
MATERIAL TO  
HELP US  
DECIDE WHERE  
TO INVEST,  
BUT FRANKLY  
WE DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
IT WELL.



LIKE  
I SAID  
BEFORE,  
IT'S BEST  
TO MAKE  
DECISIONS  
BASED  
ON YOUR  
THINGS THAT  
MATTER  
TO YOU.

GOOD  
MOVE!



I'M HOME.



WELCOME HOME.

WELCOME HOME, BIG SISTER.

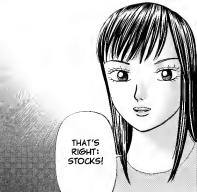


GOSH, I'M TIRED.

MACHIDA HIROKO,  
THIRD-YEAR IN COLLEGE  
MACHIDA NORIKO'S OLDER SISTER







THAT'S  
RIGHT:  
STOCKS!



STOCKS?



...YOU WERE  
BUYING  
STOCKS, OR  
SOMETHING.

COME TO  
THINK OF  
IT, I  
HEARD...



THESE  
ARE THE  
STOCKS  
I'VE  
BOUGHT.

LOOK  
AT THIS.



MINE  
INCREASED  
BY 20%.



EACH  
OF US  
STARTED  
WITH  
100,000  
YEN SEED  
MONEY,  
AND WE  
BOUGHT  
STOCKS.

WE  
STARTED  
AN  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB, ME  
AND TWO  
OF MY  
FRIENDS.



REALLY...



...I THINK  
IT WOULD  
BE VERY  
USEFUL IN  
HELPING  
YOU  
RESEARCH  
BUSINESSES.



IF YOU  
BOUGHT  
STOCKS...



THEIR  
CURRENT  
PROCEEDS,  
PROFITABILITY,  
FINANCIAL  
AFFAIRS,  
GROWTH  
POTENTIAL...

YOU MAKE  
DECISIONS TO  
INVEST OR  
NOT INVEST BY  
THOROUGHLY  
INVESTIGATING  
AS MUCH AS  
POSSIBLE  
ABOUT  
COMPANIES.



WE BELIEVE  
BUSINESSES  
WITH AN  
ENVIRONMENT  
THAT FOSTERS  
WOMEN RISING  
TO HIGH  
POSITIONS WILL  
EVENTUALLY  
GROW BIG.



WHAT  
WE'RE MOST  
INTERESTED  
IN RIGHT  
NOW IS THE  
NUMBER OF  
WOMEN A  
BUSINESS  
HAS IN  
PROMINENT  
ROLES.



I'VE  
STARTED  
THINKING  
ABOUT THINGS  
LIKE THIS  
EVER SINCE  
I STARTED  
BUYING AND  
SELLING  
STOCKS.



I THINK  
YOU'LL  
LEARN ABOUT  
DIFFERENT  
BUSINESSES,  
AND IT'LL  
MAKE YOUR  
JOB-HUNTING  
EASIER.



SO WHY  
DON'T YOU  
ALSO TRY  
OUT THE  
STOCK  
MARKET?







SHE'S  
LOOKING  
DOWN AT  
ME...



SHE THINKS  
SHE'S AN  
ELITE, NOW  
THAT SHE'S  
A STUDENT  
AT KEIN.



SHE THINKS  
I'M STUPID  
BECAUSE I  
ATTENDED  
A MIDDLE-  
LEVEL  
PRIVATE  
SCHOOL.



I HOPE  
YOU GO  
BROKE.

AND AN  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB?  
WHAT A  
JOKE.



SHE'S  
THE KIND  
WHO'LL  
NEVER  
SUCCEED  
IN LIFE.

SHE'S  
NOT GOING TO  
MAKE IT... SHE'S  
NOT TRYING TO  
DO ANYTHING  
DIFFERENT FROM  
THE PEOPLE  
AROUND HER.





YEAH.



IT  
IMPOVER-  
ISHES  
YOU TO  
THE CORE  
OF YOUR  
SOUL.

POVERTY  
IS NO  
GOOD.



ONE...  
TWO...

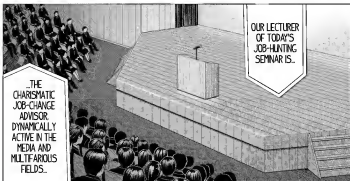


WHOOPS!  
I'M  
GONNA  
BE LATE.

SAKURA-  
CHAN, OUR  
MORNING  
RITUAL.



RIGHT  
SHOULDER  
UP.







BECAUSE  
IT'S  
PARADISE!

BECAUSE  
JAPAN IS A  
JOB-HUNTING  
HEAVEN FOR  
STUDENTS!



THAT'S  
ABSURD...

JOB-  
HUNTING  
HEAVEN?



THAT'S  
WHAT  
YOU'RE  
THINKING,  
RIGHT?  
WELL,  
YOU'RE  
GREATLY  
MISTAKEN.

"WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?  
WE'RE  
STRUGGLING  
TO DEATH.  
IT'S CRAZY  
TOUGH OUT  
THERE."



WHERE COMPANIES WILL HIRE YOU, PEOPLE WITHOUT MANY SKILLS, WITHOUT ANY EXPERTISE IN SPECIALIZED FIELDS, JUST FLEDGLINGS, RIGHT OFF THE BAT?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A BLESSING JAPANESE EMPLOYMENT IS?



THERE IS NO OTHER NATION IN THE WORLD THAT TAKES STUDENTS BY THE HAND IN SUCH ACTIVE SUPPORT.

THAT SYSTEM IS SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRIES, AND UNIVERSITIES.



EVEN IF YOUR GRADES WERE LOUSY, THEY LET YOU GRADUATE, AND THEY SET YOU ON THE SOCIETAL TRACK CALLED "NEW GRADUATES IMMEDIATELY HIRED." THIS IS HEAVEN... IT'S PARADISE!

IT IS A FACT THAT JAPAN'S STUDENTS ARE THE MOST BLESSED IN ALL THE WORLD.



THEY  
PAINSTAKINGLY  
NURTURE NEW  
GRADUATES  
WHO CAN'T  
GENERATE A  
PENNY OF  
PROFIT, WITH  
AN ANNUAL  
COST OF  
CLOSE TO 10  
MILLION YEN.

EVEN  
AFTER  
LANDING  
A JOB,  
JAPANESE  
INDUSTRIES  
ARE VERY  
KIND.



SENPAIS ASSIST  
IN BUILDING YOU  
UP TO BECOME  
FULL-FLEDGED  
ADULTS, AND GIVE  
YOU HANDS-ON  
EXPERIENCE AT  
WORK SITES;  
THIS PLANNED  
CULTIVATION  
OF FUTURE  
WORKERS GETS  
HANDED DOWN IN  
SUCCESSION.

YOU MAY HAVE  
HEARD RECENT  
TALK OF THEIR  
SEARCHING FOR  
"BATTLE-READY  
WORKERS," BUT  
THAT'S ONLY THEIR  
WAY OF TELLING  
STUDENTS TO  
STUDY WELL.



AT THE  
ROOTS OF IT  
ALL IS THE  
SOLID AFTER  
SCHOOL CLUB  
CULTURE OF  
JAPAN, WHICH  
IS GREATLY  
VALUABLE IN  
THE PROCESS  
OF HELPING  
FLEDGLING  
PEOPLE GROW,  
STEP BY STEP.

THAT IS  
BECAUSE  
JAPANESE  
PEOPLE LOVE  
THE WORD  
"GROWTH."





IT  
TRULY IS A  
JAPANESE  
METHOD OF  
GROWING  
HUMAN  
RESOURCES,  
AS DEDICATED  
AS FANS  
CHEERING  
FOR THEIR  
POP-STAR  
IDOLS!



SOCIETY  
PROVIDES AN  
ENVIRONMENT IN  
WHICH YOU CAN  
GROW HEALTHILY,  
JUST BY SIMPLY  
GOING ALONG  
FOR THE RIDE.

EVERYONE  
IS SNUGLY  
INTEGRATED  
INTO THIS  
PROCESS.



...THE WAY  
ADULTS  
THINK.

THAT  
IS...

THOSE WHO  
GRIPE AND CLAIM  
JOB-HUNTING IS  
TOUGH, OR WHINE  
THAT SOCIETY  
IS COLD AND  
HEARTLESS...  
THEY SHOULD  
BE ASHAMED OF  
THEMSELVES!





NOW,  
WHAT  
IS THE  
CURRENT  
JOB-  
HUNTING  
SITUATION  
LIKE  
FOR YOU  
FOLKS..



YEAH, BUT THE  
FACT IS, YOU  
APPLY TO 100  
COMPANIES, AND  
MAYBE ONE OF  
THEM MIGHT  
GIVE YOU AN  
UNOFFICIAL  
TRYOUT.



HUH?



HOW MANY  
BUSINESS  
ENTERPRISES  
ARE  
CURRENTLY  
IN JAPAN?



BY THE  
WAY,  
YOU  
THERE.



HOW  
MANY ARE  
THERE? I..  
I DUNNO.

H-HOW MANY  
BUSINESS  
ENTERPRISES?

HUH?



I'M SO  
HUMILIATED  
RIGHT  
NOW.



THERE  
ARE FOUR  
MILLION  
COMPANIES.



BUT  
STILL,  
JOB-  
HUNTING  
COMPETITION  
HAPPENS.  
WHY IS  
THAT?

THE NUMBER  
OF NEW COLLEGE  
GRADUATES  
LOOKING  
FOR JOBS IS  
APPROXIMATELY  
450,000, SO IT'S  
GUARANTEED THEY  
SHOULD LAND A  
JOB WITHOUT  
EVEN TRYING.



OF  
COURSE!  
WHO  
WANTS TO  
WORK AT  
A SMALL  
PLACE?



AND  
EVERYONE  
IGNORES  
THE MEDIUM  
AND SMALL,  
SCRAMBLING  
TO THE 0.3%  
MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS  
INSTEAD.

THAT IS  
BECAUSE 99.7%  
OF THOSE  
FOUR MILLION  
COMPANIES  
ARE MEDIUM  
OR SMALL  
CORPORATIONS.



"FORGET  
THE MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS!  
GET INTO THE  
SMALL OR  
MEDIUM!"

BUT I  
HAVE NO  
INTENTION  
WHATSOEVER  
OF TELLING  
YOU:



YOUR  
SCHOOL  
RECORDS  
DON'T MATTER!  
APPLY TO  
PRESTIGIOUS,  
FANCY,  
GLORIOUS  
COMPANIES!  
PULL OUT ALL  
STOPS!

GO  
FOR THE  
MAJORS!  
ALL OUT!



DON'T SAY  
STUFF LIKE OLD  
PEOPLE: "I HAVE  
TO BE SATISFIED  
WITH MY STATION  
IN LIFE." THAT'S  
UNATTRACTIVE!  
STRETCH YOUR  
ARMS AS WIDE  
AS THEY'LL GO,  
AND FORGE  
AHEAD TO  
THE MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS!

AIM HIGH!  
THAT IS A  
YOUNG  
PERSON'S  
PREROGATIVE!  
SO YOU MAKE  
MISTAKES?  
THAT'S FINE,  
TOO!



LEARN FOR  
YOURSELF  
THAT MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS  
HAVE JUDGED  
YOU AS NOT  
BEING SUPERIOR  
HIRING  
MATERIAL!

YOU'LL  
GET SIFTED  
THROUGH,  
AND YOU'LL  
FALL, BUT  
GO FOR IT  
ANYWAY!



THAT'S  
ONLY THEIR  
OPINION OF  
YOU, AND  
NOTHING  
MORE.

BUT  
SO WHAT?  
NONE OF  
THAT MEANS  
ANYTHING.



ALL  
RIGHT,  
LET'S  
DROP  
OUR AIM  
A NOTCH  
AND LOOK  
FOR  
SOMEWHERE  
EASIER  
TO GET  
INTO.

SO...  
LET'S  
SAY THE  
MAJOR  
COMPANIES  
WERE A  
BLIST.



I DON'T  
THINK SO...  
I'D FEEL  
HURT AND  
DEPRESSED.



BECAUSE  
THERE'S  
ABSOLUTELY  
NO WAY YOU'D  
KNOW THE  
QUALITY OF A  
MEDIUM-LEVEL  
BUSINESS,  
WHETHER IT'S  
BAD OR GOOD.



STILL,  
YOU  
IMPATIENTLY  
RUSH  
INTO THEM  
ANYWAY.



WHEN  
YOU SHIFT  
YOUR AIM  
FROM MAJOR  
BUSINESSES  
TO MEDIUM-  
LEVEL  
BUSINESSES,  
YOUR  
JOB-HUNTING  
LIFE WILL  
SUDDENLY  
BECOME  
CHAOTIC.

BUT  
THINGS  
AREN'T  
GOING TO  
GO THAT  
CONVE-  
NIENTLY.



ROBBED OF  
VITALITY FROM  
JOB-HUNTING  
FATIGUE, THEY  
LOSE THEIR  
YOUTHFUL  
RADIANCE! ALL  
THAT REMAINS  
IS AN AURA  
OF MENACING  
BLOOD-  
THIRSTINESS!

AND  
THEN WHAT  
HAPPENS?  
UNFORTU-  
NATELY,  
STUDENTS  
LOSE THEIR  
ATTRACTIVE  
QUALITIES.

